

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 02109 022308Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 SAA-01 SES-02
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /081 W
-----062895 022312Z /45

Z 022240Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK FLASH
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1445
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2109

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: REPORTED WEIZMAN STATEMENT

REF: USUN NEW YORK 3080

1. HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO BBC CORRESPONDENT ELKINS WHO SAYS
REPORTED QUOTE WEIZMAN INACCURATE. ELKINS READ FROM HIS
NOTES BROADCAST REFERRED TO REFTEL.
2. "ISRAELI OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGE SHIFT
BECAUSE OF AMERICAN PRESSURE. ONE ISRAELI OFFICIAL PUT IT
IN THIS FASHION. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE OTHERS THAT
WHAT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST IS ALSO NOT IN THEIRS, AND IF IN SOME
WAY INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS INSIST THAT THERE ARE WIDER INTERESTS,
THAT THESE PEOPLE (LAF) GO DOWN SOUTH, THEN WILLY NILLY
ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO GIVE HER BLESSING TO THIS."
3. ELKINS SAID FOREGOING BASED ON CONTACTS WITH WHAT HE
CONSIDERS TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE ISRAELI SOURCES. (SOURCE OF
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 02109 022308Z

HIS INFORMATION 1630 LOCAL WHICH WAS PRIOR TO END OF ATHERTON/
LEWIS MEETING WITH BEGIN ET AL.) IN SPITE OF HIS EFFORTS,
HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SPEAK TO WEIZMAN. SPEAKING
PERSONALLY, HE CONSIDERS ABOVE AUTHORITATIVE AND HAS BEEN
TOLD ONE ELEMENT LEADING TO GOI DECISION WAS PROSPECT OF
UNSC ALLEGATIONS ISRAEL INTERFERING IN LEBANESE DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS.

4. WHEN PRESSED, ELKINS SAID IN HIS VIEW AND THAT OF OTHER REPUTABLE CORRESPONDENTS, GOI HAS UNDERTAKEN TASK OF PERSUADING CHRISTIANS TO PERMIT PASSAGE OF LAF THROUGH TO TIBNIN. AT SAME TIME, UNNAMED AUTHORITATIVE ISRAELI OFFICIALS REMARK CHRISTIAN LEADERS DO NOT ALWAYS TAKE GUIDANCE FROM ISRAEL.

5. COMMENT: BELIEVE AUTHORITATIVE WORD ON GOI POSITION MUST COME VIA AMBASSADOR LEWIS WHEN COMMUNICATED TO TEL AVIV. HOWEVER, ELKINS' REPORT IS A HOPEFUL STRAW IN THE WIND.
NEWLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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